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The  
Hundred and Thirty-First Anniversary  
of the  
MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE

Souvenir Programme

MAY 20th, 1906

Charlotte, North Carolina.

Published by  
D. HATCHER WATKINS and CHARLES G. MULLEN

Press of  
RAY PRINTING COMPANY  
Charlotte, N. C.

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Official.  
Souvenir  
Programme



Celebration  
Blackenburg  
Declaration of  
Independence



Charlotte, N. C.,  
May 21-26, 1906



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The Prime Mover in the 138th Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.





# *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence*

---

I. Resolved, That whosoever directly, or indirectly, abets, or in any way, form, or manner countenances the invasion of our rights, as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to this country, to America, and to the rights of men.

II. Resolved, That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bonds which have connected us with the mother country, and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, adjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed innocent blood of Americans at Lexington and Concord.

III. Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; that we are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the General Congress; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

IV. Resolved, That we hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct all and each of our former laws, and that the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any right, privileges, or immunities among us.

V. Resolved, That all officers, both civil and military, in this County be entitled to exercise the same powers and authorities as heretofore; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine con-





troversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the County, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and country until a more general and better organized system of government be established.

VI. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress, assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

Abraham Alexander,  
(Chairman)

Ephraim Brevard,  
Hezekiah J. Balch,  
John Phifer,  
James Harris,  
William Kennon,  
John Ford,  
Richard Barry,  
Henry Downs,  
Ezra Alexander,  
William Graham,  
John Query,  
Hezekiah Alexander,

John McKnitt Alexander,  
(Secretary)

Adam Alexander,  
Charles Alexander,  
Zacheus Wilson, Sen.,  
Waightstill Avery,  
Benjamin Patton,  
Matthew McClure,  
Neill Morrison,  
Robert Irwin,  
John Flenniken,  
David Reese,  
John Davidson,  
Richard Harris, Sen.,

Thomas Polk.





## *A Paper on the Mecklenburg Declaration*

BY GEORGE W. GRAHAM, M. D.

**O**N May 19, 1775, delegates chosen by the people of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, met in "General Committee" at Charlotte, and "after sitting in the court house all night, neither sleepy, hungry nor fatigued," and after discussing every paragraph, unanimously adopted a Declaration of Independence about two o'clock on the morning of May 20. A copy of the proceedings was sent to the Continental Congress, then assembled in Philadelphia, for ratification.

When Captain Jack, the bearer of the Declaration to Congress, arrived in Philadelphia, he found the members of that body not only opposed to independence individually, but actually preparing a petition to King George III, which was subsequently adopted and signed by every member of the Congress on July 8, 1775, declaring "we have not raised armies with the ambitious design of separating from Great Britain and establishing independent States."

At the meeting of the delegates in Charlotte, John McKnitt Alexander was elected Secretary, and thus became custodian of the records. In April, 1800, 25 years after this meeting, the records and declaration were burned with Alexander's dwelling. In the meantime, however, the Old Secretary, as he is called, had transcribed not less than seven copies from the original resolutions, and after the destruction of the Declaration Alexander made two additional copies from memory, one of which he gave to General William R. Davie. The other was found among his papers after death. One of the memory copies is known as the Davie copy. It contains many verbal errors, and besides, being written in past tense instead of the present, contains only five resolutions where the original has six. Alexander, however, confesses to a possible lapse of memory when writing the Davie paper, in the following certificate upon its back:

"The foregoing statement, though fundamentally correct, may not literally correspond with the original record of the transactions of said delegation."

In 1819, two years after the death of John McKnitt Alexander, the proceedings at Charlotte, including a duplicate of the Davie





copy of the resolutions, were published in The Raleigh Register, by his son, Dr. Joseph McKnitt Alexander, with this note appended: "The foregoing is a true copy of the papers on the above subject left in my hands by John McKnitt Alexander, deceased."

A copy of this publication fell into the hands of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote John Adams, "I believe it spurious, I deem it to be a very unjustifiable quiz."

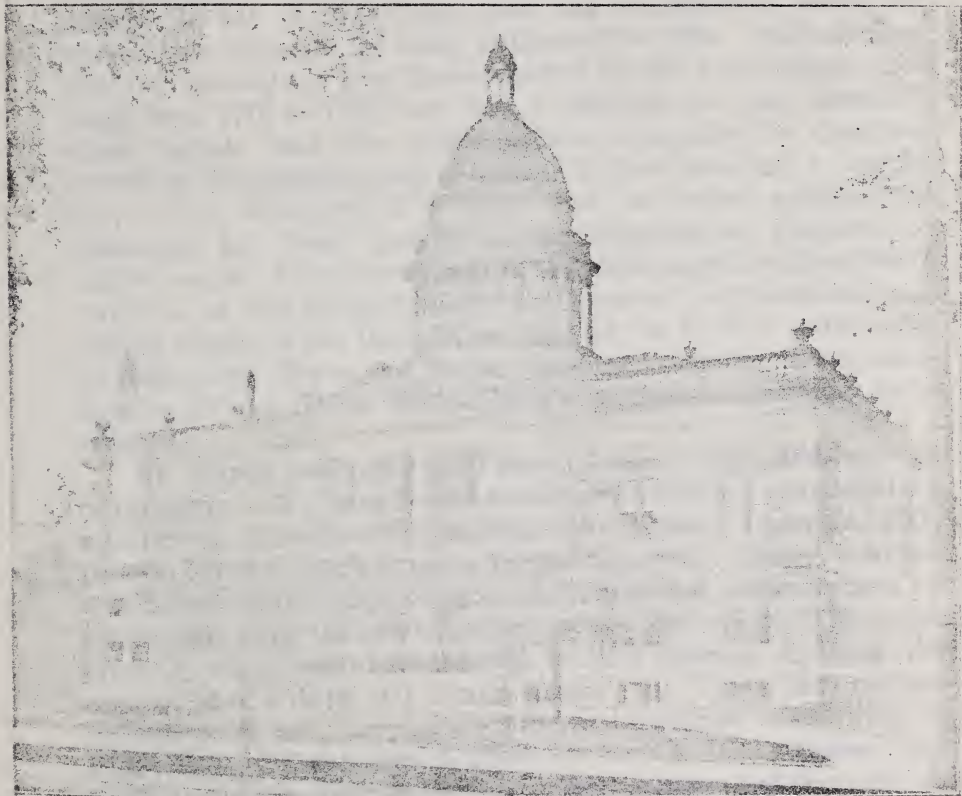
Although the friends of Mr. Jefferson allege that nothing was ever heard of the Mecklenburg Declaration previous to its publication in The Raleigh Register in 1819, there is abundant evidence to prove that at least seven authentic copies of those resolutions were in existence before the destruction of the proceedings in the year 1800. Of these seven transcripts, John McKnitt Alexander, at the direction of the delegates, sent four to the Congress at Philadelphia shortly after the meeting at Charlotte adjourned; one to the President, and one to each of the three members from North Carolina. A fifth copy appeared in The Cape Fear Mercury, in June, 1775, that is, within 30 days after the Declaration was adopted. A sixth copy was supplied by Alexander to Dr. Hugh Williamson, who was collecting material for a history of the State, which copy Governor Stokes, in the preface to a pamphlet issued by the North Carolina Legislature in 1831, testifies to having seen together with a letter from Alexander in the possession of Williamson, as early as 1793. A seventh copy, which the author says was obtained by him before 1800, the year the records were burned, is preserved in Martin's History of North Carolina.

It is with this seventh, or Martin, copy of the Declaration that we propose to deal in this paper, and we shall therefore, before proceeding farther, inquire who Martin was, and ascertain his possible sources of information as to what was done at Charlotte on May 19-20, 1775.

According to the preface to his history and The North Carolina University Magazine for 1893, Francois Xavier Martin at the age of 20 migrated from France to New Berne, North Carolina, where he first taught school, then published a newspaper, and subsequently practiced law. In 1791-2 by a joint resolution of the State Legislature he was engaged to compile and publish the British Statutes then in use in North Carolina, and in 1803 to edit and print the private acts of the General Assembly. The character of this work and the collection of materials for State history, which the preface says "began to engage the attention of the



writer as early as the year 1791," required the presence of Mr. Martin at the State capitol, where he had access to the public documents and colonial records. There he saw much of William Polk, George Graham and Joseph Graham, who were present when the Mecklenburg Declaration was adopted, and became personally acquainted with James Harris and Robert Irwin, two of the delegates that subscribed the resolutions, since all five of these men, Wheeler's History says, were successively members of the Legisla-



#### MECKLENBURG COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Showing Monument to Signers of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

ture from Mecklenburg county from 1791 to 1803, the time Martin was serving the State and collecting material for his book.

In 1806 Mr. Martin was elected to the General Assembly from the borough of New Berne, when he was again associated with George Graham and with Nathaniel Alexander, who at the time was Chief Magistrate of North North Carolina. Governor Alexander, in addition to being a citizen of Mecklenburg county, was a





brother-in-law to Ephraim Brevard, who drew the Mecklenburg Declaration, and son-in-law to Colonel Thomas Polk, who immediately after the adoption of the Declaration, read the resolutions aloud to the large concourse of the people that had assembled to witness the proceedings of the delegates.

Mr. Martin's home was in Craven county, where he personally knew Richard Caswell, who lived in the adjoining county of Dobbs (now Lenoir), as both men were lawyers and contemporary attorneys at the bar of New Berne and the neighboring towns for several years prior to the death of Caswell in 1789. Richard Caswell represented the New Berne district in the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was a member of that Assembly when Captain Jack, the bearer of the Declaration to Congress arrived in Philadelphia, and is known to have received a special copy of the resolutions from Jack. For, as before stated, that messenger had been directed by the delegates at Charlotte to deliver copies of the proceedings to the three members from North Carolina, as well as the President of Congress; and when acknowledging receipt of the Declaration, Caswell, in a joint letter with his colleagues, Hewes and Hooper, predicted that the whole continent would soon follow Mecklenburg's example in declaring independence.

Mr. Martin was appointed Federal Judge in 1809, and removed to Louisiana. We learn from his preface that he had completed the manuscript of the first two volumes of his history, begun in 1791, prior to leaving North Carolina for the far south. These volumes, which recount the State's history, including the circumstances of the Mecklenburg Declaration, down to the summer of 1776, were taken by the author in manuscript to New Orleans, to await the completion of a third and fourth volume, for which the preface informs us he had "very ample notes and material"; but owing to a busy life and feeble health after his arrival in Louisiana, and finding no opportunity of finishing volumes three and four of his book, Judge Martin, in 1829, printed the manuscript of volumes one and two without revision. Thus it appears that, although Martin's History was not published until 20 years after it was written, and ten years after Mr. Jefferson first questioned the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration, the manuscript had been prepared 1791 to 1809 and shipped to New Orleans ten years before the controversy arose. This long delay in printing the manuscript, years after the appearance of the Davie copy, no doubt caused Mr. Bancroft and other noted historians, who



evidently failed to read his preface, to undervalue Martin's account of what was done at Charlotte on May 19-20, 1775.

Martin's manuscript is shown to have been neither revised nor enlarged after the author became a citizen of Louisiana in 1809, by the fact that he refers to Captain Jack in his narrative as still living, where he says "James Jack, then of Charlotte, but now residing in the State of Georgia, was engaged to be the bearer of the resolutions to the President of Congress." Yet we find in Hunter's Sketches of Western North Carolina that Jack died in 1822, thirteen years after Martin's History was written, and seven years before it went to press. That the publication of Martin's manuscript was deferred long after the author had written it and removed to the Southwest is made evident by the following remark in the preface: "The determination has been taken to put the work to press in the condition it was when it reached New Orleans; this has prevented any use being made of Williamson's History of North Carolina (printed in 1812), a copy of which did not reach the writer's hands until after he arrived in Louisiana."

Additional proof that the copy of the resolutions printed by Martin were transcribed before the Declaration was destroyed is furnished by the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D. D., LL.D., whose reputation as a divine is a sufficient guarantee of his loyalty to the truth. On May 20, 1857, Dr. Hawks delivered the anniversary address of the Twentieth of May celebration at Charlotte, and in the course of his remarks said that some years before, when he and Judge Martin resided in New Orleans, he asked that historian where and when he procured the copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration printed in his book, and the reply was "in the western part of the State prior to the year 1800." He also said, "it was not obtained from Alexander."

To recapitulate :

(1) Martin was engaged from 1791 to 1809, nearly twenty years, in work which gave him official access to the public documents and colonial records of North Carolina, and, as his book states, gleaned from the contemporary records, magazines and gazettes all data pertinent to the Mecklenburg Declaration.

(2) Martin told Dr. Hawks that he possessed a copy of that Declaration made before 1800, the year the original resolutions were destroyed with the Alexander residence, and Martin had also read the proceedings of the delegates printed in The Cape Fear Mercury of June, 1775.

(3) While collecting material for this history, Martin was daily associated with five members of the Legislature from Mecklenburg





county who were present when the Declaration was adopted, two of whom were delegates and signed the resolutions; and previously Martin had known at least one member of the Continental Con-



CITY HALL

gress, who received a special copy of the Declaration from the delegates at Charlotte.

(4) At the time Martin wrote his history, 1791 to 1809, all the facts he recorded were to be had from living witnesses, and as he was a man of fine personal character and integrity, why not accept his narrative as to what was done at Charlotte on May 19-20, 1775?



## *City of Charlotte and County of Mecklenburg*

**M**ECKLENBURG county was first a part of Anson county. It became a separate county by an act passed by the Colonial Legislature in 1762. The preamble to the charter reads: "Whereas by Reason of the large Extent of the County of Anson, it is greatly inconvenient for the inhabitants to attend Court of the aforesaid County, general Musters, and other public Duties by Law required: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, and it hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the first Day of February, the said County of Anson shall be, and is hereby divided into two distinct Counties, by a Line beginning at Lord Carteret's Line, six miles North-East from Captain Charles Hart's plantation on Buffalo Creek, and to run from thence to the North of Clear Creek, which empties itself into Rockey River, below Captain Adam Alexander's place: and from thence due South to the Bounds of the Province of South Carolina: And that all that Part of said County which lies to the Eastward of said dividing Line, shall be a distinct County, and remain and be called by the Name of Anson County; and that all that part of the Said County lying to the Westward of said dividing Line, shall be henceforth one other distinct County, and called by the Name of Mecklenburg."

\* \* \*

About six years after this, on the 7th of November, 1768, an act bearing the name of King George III, establishing a town in Mecklenburg County was passed. John Frohock, Abraham Alexander and Thomas Polk were "seized in fee" of 360 acres of land which had been granted them, and on these 360 acres the town of Charlotte was started. The act stated that the town was established "because of the healthfulness of the place and the convenient situation thereof for trade."

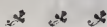
\* \* \*

Settlers first began migrating to Mecklenburg in 1745, coming from three directions. The Scotch-Irish came from Western Pennsylvania and Virginia; the Germans from the same region; and English, Scotch, Germans, Huguenots and Swiss from Charleston and Georgetown. The Scotch-Irish came in the greatest numbers, though, and to them belongs the greatest credit for settling the county.





The present site of Charlotte was, because of its central location, naturally chosen as the county-seat, but this was not done permanently, because of much dissention, until 1774, when it was ordered that a court house be built here.



It was in this court house, about 2 o'clock on the morning of May 20th, 1775, that the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was signed. The old court house, a log structure, supported by a foundation of brick, stood in what is now known as Independence Square, at the intersection of Tryon and Trade streets, and is marked by a large iron plate.



Charlotte and Mecklenburg were named for Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, who, in 1761, became the wife of George III of England. There are two small dachies in North Germany that are known as Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Princess Charlotte was of the latter duchy, and she went from there to become the bride of King George.



Charlotte is sometimes known as the Hornet's Nest City. The name was given it by Lord Cornwallis, who commanded a British troop that fought the Mecklenburg Militia in the streets of the town, in the fall of 1780. In writing to the Earl of Dartmouth afterward, he stated that he got into a veritable hornet's nest when he came to Charlotte town.



The first educational institution in this part of the South was located in Charlotte. It was chartered by the Legislature as the Queen's Museum, in 1771, but was generally known as Queen's College. The college was located at the site of the present court house.



The population of Charlotte at the outbreak of the Civil War was scarcely 2,000. With the reconstruction days, the population began to increase steadily. When the country was relieved of military government and conditions became normal once again, the increase, both in population and business was pronounced. In 1880, its population was 6,000; in 1890, about 11,000, and in 1900, about 20,000. The past six years have added greatly to the population and business volume of the city. A conservative estimate now places the population of the city and its suburbs at 40,000.

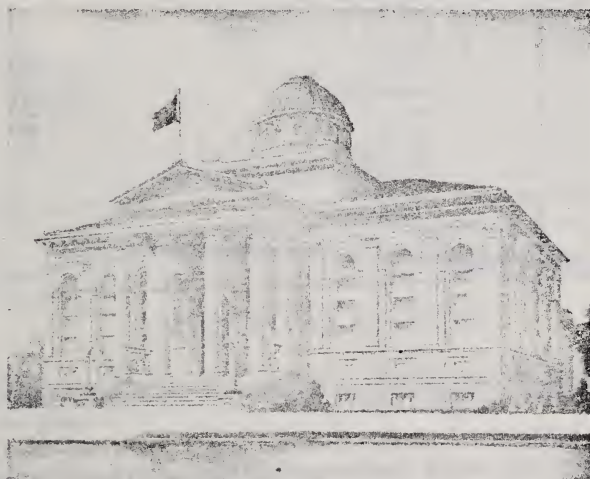


## *The Celebration May the Twentieth, 1844*

BY DR. J. B. ALEXANDER.

**I**T has been the custom of all the people in all the ages to celebrate the greatest events of history, and it is peculiarly fitting for us to celebrate each returning anniversary of the Twentieth of May; that it may be impressed upon the minds of the young from one generation to another. We have records of some notable ones in 1825 and in 1835, that were attended by men who participated in the war of the Revolution.

I remember distinctly the celebration of May the Twentieth, 1844. The exercises were held in the yard of William Junius Alex-



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ander, Esq., on the lot now occupied by the court house. A dinner was prepared and served on a long table between the monument and Tryon street, that would seat between 50 and 100 people. The cost of a seat was \$5. This was the beginning to raise money to build a monument to the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The county had at that time but three living men who had been soldiers in the war of Independence, and but one of whom was able to attend the celebration, viz., Major Tommy Alexander, then in his 84th year. He was placed in a large arm chair, at the upper

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PART 2  
1901



end of the table: he looked very old and was quite feeble. After they had dined, James W. Osborne, then a young man, comparatively, was called on for a speech. He stood beside Major Tommy Alexander, and, after speaking awhile, he turned and placed both of his hands over the Major's head, and I could see the tears trickling down the old soldier's cheek; and every one sitting at the



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table were turned around, looking at the scene. It was certainly an impressive one.


Ephriam Brevard, from Lincoln county, was chief marshal, and after Judge Osborne's speech, he walked up to the table and placed a \$20 bill down, and called upon the descendents of the signers and lovers of liberty to follow suit. He said if that was too much, to put down a \$10 or a \$5 bill. To my youthful eyes it looked like a mighty pile of money. But the monument has been built.



### *A Legal Holiday.*

The Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted the 20th of May as a legal holiday, and it is observed with befitting ceremonies every year.





## *"That Cape Fear Mercury"*



BY PROF. ALEXANDER GRAHAM.

**S**UCH is the heading in The Charlotte Observer of January 1st, 1906, in a report made by the Charlotte committee, consisting of Dr. George W. Graham, Mr. R. O. Alexander and Mr. Alexander Graham. In the report these gentlemen make five succinct statements, showing why they concluded the Miller paper was not genuine, and conclude by printing that the committee is of the opinion that it did not see in the possession of Dr. Miller either a genuine copy of The Cape Fear Mercury or a copy of the one Dr. Miller printed in Collier's Weekly, in July, 1905. The report was signed:

(Signed) GEO. W. GRAHAM,  
R. O. ALEXANDER,  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM.

In this report, printed as stated above, January 1st, 1906, is the following note: Baltimore, Dec. 30, 1905: Gentlemen of the Committee from Charlotte, N. C. Dear Sirs:—I agree to secure the opinion of Worthington C. Ford (by direct written request upon him) within five days of this date as to the authenticity of The Cape Fear Mercury now in my possession. Yours truly,  
S. MILLINGTON MILLER.

I have been requested to write a short sketch of the committee's visit to Baltimore to see Dr. Miller and the copy of The Cape Fear Mercury, which he agreed to show us with a view of selling the same, and also to secure our affidavits as to its genuineness. My sole object in complying with your request is because, in the recent April number of The American Historical Review, Mr. Worthington C. Ford has written an article in which he takes the credit, with the aid of Mr. A. Sally, Jr., of Columbia, S. C., of destroying the S. Millington Miller forgery, as he calls it, and ignores the Charlotte committee and their report entirely; thus making it appear to the readers of The Review that the Miller paper was destroyed by the enemies of the May Twentieth Declaration, instead of by the friends of that Declaration.

Unfortunately for Mr. Worthington C. Ford, the Charlotte committee printed their report on January 1st, 1906, and sent copies to Ford and Miller while his report was not printed until January 12th, 1906. Had it not been for the courtesy and the intercession of the Charlotte committee, Mr. Ford would never have seen the Miller Mercury. On behalf of the committee I wish to place on record a solemn protest against Ford's most remarkable statement in The Historical Review: That notwithstanding the Charlotte committee's very first statement that it objected to the paper exhibited in Baltimore because it contains only two columns, while the fac-simile printed in Collier's, in July, contained three; and notwithstanding the committee told Mr. Ford in Washington December 30th, 1905, after meeting Miller in the morning, and a few days later sent him a joint telegram, reasserting that the paper Miller showed in Baltimore was a two-column paper, Mr. Ford says he thinks Miller showed the Charlotte committee a three-column paper, because Mr. Miller said the Charlotte committee was mistaken in their report that the paper was two columns.





Our opinion is set aside by this expert; and a man he calls a forger and whom he proves a liar is said to be right, in his contention that the paper contained three. The Charlotte papers are open to him to explain his wonderful conclusion. He goes out of his way to say that Andrew Stevenson would hardly borrow a paper and fail to return it. The record in the British office says: "Taken out by Mr. Turner for Mr. Stevenson and never returned." Mr. Brown, of the firm of Brown & Stephens, wrote me this winter that that record was in London to-day, just as Wheeler and Draper say it was there at the close of the Confederate War. The record contradicts Mr. Ford's opinion. Letters and telegrams, in Governor Stevenson's possession, show that it was once in Andrew Stevehson's possession; and although this gentleman lived during



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twenty years of the warm discussion of this paper, he never broke the silence which would have forever settled this once-mooted question.

With your permission, I will as briefly as possible show how the Millington paper was destroyed by the friends of May Twentieth, 1775.

The Colonial Governor Martin, in June, 1775, sent to the Earl of Dartmouth an enclosed newspaper, containing resolves of a set of men, stiling themselves a committee for Mecklenburg, most traiterously declaring the entire dissolution of the laws, government and constitution of this country. In another letter he alludes to this enclosure "as The Cape Fear Mercury," and calls his Lordship's attention to the fact that in this paper he will find the proceedings of a committee at Wilmington declaring that he, the Governor, is denounced as an enemy to this province in particular and to America in general.

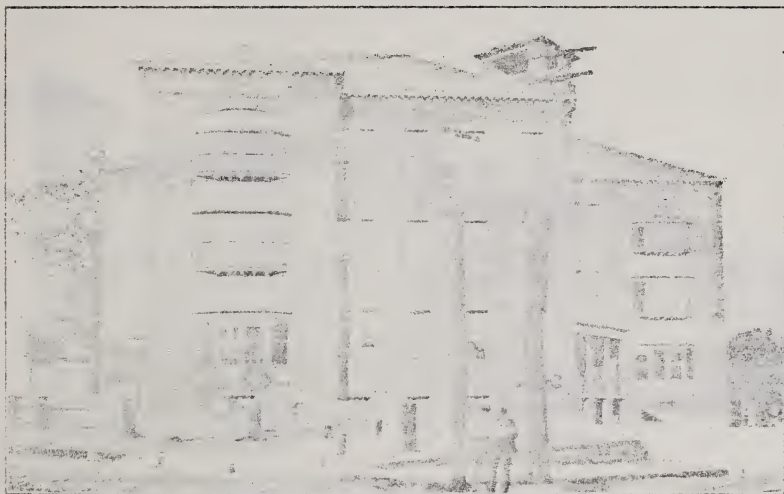
The value of The Mercury hinges on the fact that if found it would settle forever all discussion of the most mooted question since the Discovery of



America, to wit, the authenticity of the May Twentieth Declaration.

When Wheeler, the North Carolina historian, visited London, the newspaper was missing and the minutes of the council and the letter were still there. A memorandum was there, says Wheeler, at that time and Messrs. Brown & Stephens, of No. 4 Trafalgar Square, London, wrote me last December that it was still there and read, "Taken out by Mr. Turner for Mr. Stevenson and never returned, dated August 15, 1837." The Stevenson referred to was Andrew Stevenson, and he was U. S. Minister of the Court of St. James. When Wheeler returned to this country, Stevenson was dead, but Governor Stevenson, his son, wrote him that telegrams and letters showed that the lost Mercury had been in his possession, but the paper could not be found.

Mr. Noel Sainsbury, late keeper of the London printing office, wrote me that



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he sometimes received as many as 75 inquiries in one day, extending from Maine to Missouri and from there to California, about the lost Mercury.

"I do not exaggerate," he writes, "when I say I believe I could get its weight in Bank of England notes, if I could produce the lost Cape Fear Mercury."

Dr. Miller, on a visit to Charlotte, was told all the above facts by Dr. George W. Graham. Miller said he would find that paper. He received from Dr. Graham a copy of Ramsay's Broadside, of the Mecklenburg Declaration, which contained three resolutions, some preliminary remarks and the names of twenty-nine signers. Miller also tried to purchase Allmands' Remembrancer from Dr. Graham. This, he saw, contained many letters of 1775 and 1776, etc.

Nothing of these circumstances would ever have been thought of again, but in July, 1905, a single page in Collier's Weekly created a greater commotion in the historical world than any single page written in half a century: because it purported to exhibit to the world a fac-simile of the long lost Cape Fear Mercury, found by Dr. S. Millington Miller among the papers of Andrew Stevenson. The paper was dated June 3rd, Friday, and was numbered 294. The cut





represented a three-column sheet's first page, with English coat of arms, had some preliminary remarks and three resolutions as we now see them in the Davie copy, with the names of six of the signers at the bottom of column one closing with the name Ochiltree.

The writing below in Collier's said there follows below the names of twenty-three other signers. The first word in column two was the syllable "ford" which was half the name Medford, a Massachusetts village, containing a list of the killed and wounded of the Battle of Lexington. Only a few names were printed. I afterwards found the complete list in Allmands' Remembrancer. These few printed names were all of column two. Column three was spaced, but contained nothing. The Colliers wrote Mr. R. O. Alexander that they were not in a habit of printing fakes, showing the paper was thought by



SOUTH GRADED SCHOOL BUILDING

the editors to be genuine. Mr. Alexander arranged with Miller that he would show the original to a Charlotte committee, consisting of Dr. George W. Graham, Mr. R. O. Alexander and Mr. Alexander Graham, which committee, if satisfied, was to make affidavits as to its authenticity. The place was Baltimore, the time Saturday, December 30th, 1905. In the Hotel Bellevidere, Dr. Miller exhibited a sheet printed on one side only, which he claimed was a supplement of The Cape Fear Mercury. The reader will note in Collier's he calls it the first page of the Mercury.

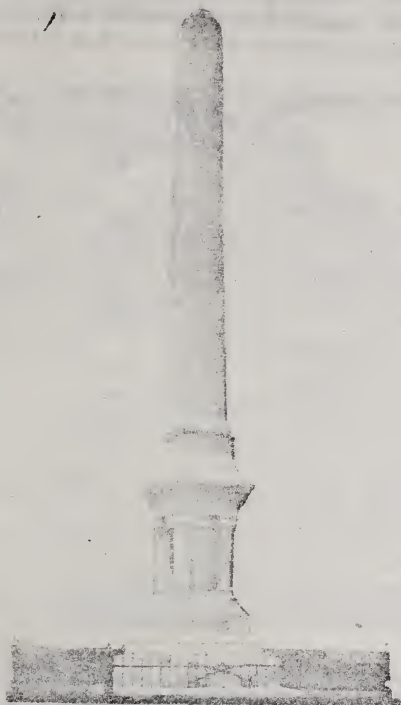
Miller said, when exhibiting it: "This paper and the letter enclosing it is all I have left; they have even stolen—the Broadside you gave me. Dr. Graham." The paper contained the preliminary remarks contained in Collier's first column; then followed the names of twenty-nine signers and among them (as No. 6) Ochiltree. The names of the signers did not fill the first column. A letter dated Salem, Mass., May 25th, was commenced continuing with a list of the killed and wounded at the Battle of Lexington, and the space left in column two was spaced with two or three short Colonial news items. The Salem letter had the syllable "ford" three or four lines from the top of column two, and was written undivided "Medford."





There was silence in that room after Miller handed Dr. Graham the Mercury and handed Alexander Graham the Stevenson manuscript, which he said was wrapped around it.

Miller informed R. O. Alexander that he had been offered \$5,000 by two parties—one, I think, in Mississippi, and the other in New York or North Carolina—but would give him the preference over all. Miller now remarked: "Gen-



MONUMENT  
To Lieut. Shipp

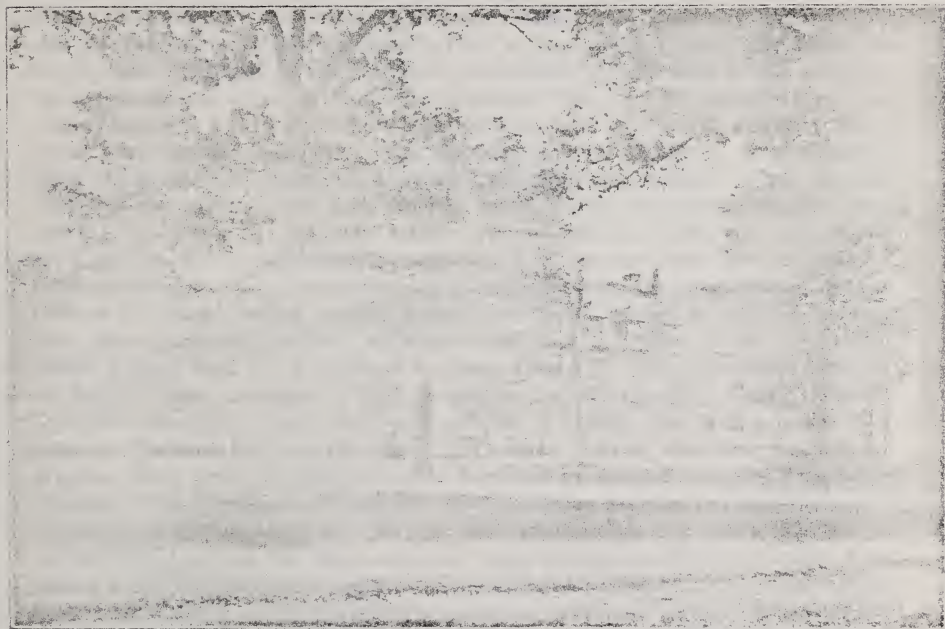


MONUMENT  
To Signers of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

flemen, you are all sawing wood. Why don't you say something?" Alexander Graham asked him where he found the paper. He said: "In a package of several thousand letters. I purchased at auction. The Mercury was folded twice and enclosed in the Stevenson letter you hold in your hand, which letter you will see refers to the within newspaper and is signed A Stevenson." None of the committee could make out a single word except the signature, which was genuine, and the date, which was February 17th, 1837. The letter



was genuine; was plainly marked by postoffice officials "Missent" in print letters, and redirected by Thacker in red ink. Dr. Graham, on examining the letter, explained to him that the word he, Miller, called "Within newspaper" read, "Within permission" or "Written permission," but it was nothing about a newspaper. At all events, the letter was of no value as evidence as it was clearly dated February 17th, 1837, whereas the lost paper was not missing until August 15th, 1837, six months later. This floored Miller, who saw the connection between letter and paper dissolve into the air, and although the colloquy had lasted scant twenty minutes, showed signs of wanting to leave the



#### ELIZABETH COLLEGE

room. Alexander Graham produced two photographs of two genuine Mercuries, sent him from the British office by Stephens & Brown Company, No. 4, Trafalgar Square, London, one dated December 29th, 1773, with coat of arms as in Collier's, and numbered 204, and the other dated July 28th, 1775, without coat of arms, and numbered 266. He was told that there were five of these Mercuries in London and all two-column papers. I laid the photographs down on the cover of the bed, side by side with Miller's two-column paper, and called attention to the similarity of the three as to the number of columns, type and general appearances. Miller enthusiastically remarked "Another evidence of the genuineness of my paper." The astounding fact was now called to his attention that June 3rd, 1775, was numbered 294, while July 28th, 1775, was numbered 266. Miller thereupon opened his valise and produced an old Philadelphia Colonial paper, with a similar discrepancy and claimed this as another evidence of the genuineness of his paper. Dr. Graham also called attention to the syllable "ford," not being at the top of column two, but that Medford, undivided, was several lines below.





This criticism was lost on Miller as he said that the Colliers people had played havoc with his photograph and material and otherwise had treated him outrageously. The interview had now lasted 25 minutes, and Miller wished to know what we proposed to do, and Dr. Graham told him none of us were satisfied as to the genuineness of his paper. Dr. Graham suggested that he would submit his paper to the inspection of an expert, and also suggested Mr. Worthington C. Ford, in charge of manuscripts in the Congressional Library, at Washington. Miller agreed to this, but changed his mind and gave the gentlemen the note cited at the beginning of this paper, and bade us good morning. The committee agreed, if Ford said the paper was genuine, to purchase the same. According to the written agreement, Miller met Ford on January 5th, and, *mirabile dictu*, Miller exhibits to Ford a three-column paper and swears it is the same exhibited to the Charlotte committee, and all three of the committee are mistaken when in their written report, they say he exhibited a two-column paper in Baltimore. Ford says the Broadside which Miller said in Baltimore was stolen from him, was hanging up in Miller's room framed. Ford states in his report of January 12th that the syllable "ford" in the three-column paper shown him, did not occur on top of column two but was several lines down the second column. This proves that Miller not only did not show the Charlotte committee the same paper he showed Ford, but he showed Ford a different paper, by Ford's own statement, from the three-column paper printed in Collier's paper, as that paper has "ford" quoted on top of column two. How important is that syllable "ford" as a witness, and how much better witness than the Washington expert "Ford?" The Charlotte committee had in their possession a photograph of the Worchester, Mass., Library Cape Fear Mercury, dated November and No. 7. They also had a copy of a letter of the New England Photographic Company, saying that they had photographed No. 7 for S. Millington Miller, and that he wanted a reversed negative of same. The Worchester paper was three columns, and was perhaps the model used by Miller in imposing on Colliers. He afterwards may have written to London and, learning the Mercuries over there contained only two columns concluded to try a two-column paper on the Charlotte committee. The fact that he kept them waiting so long makes this probable. He failed signally to deceive the Charlotte trio with a two-column, and as a last resort, he tries the three-column on Ford. The No. 294, he could not change as he had photographed it in Colliers. The Charlotte committee also knew that the first Mercury was printed in October, 1769, and if issued regularly, allowing for one leap year, the number for June the second would be 295. Miller forgot the leap year and put it 294—this is very evident. He was not aware but the Charlotte committee knew that the editor of The Cape Fear Mercury failed 29 weeks to get his paper out and therefore July 23th, 1775, was numbered 266, and June 2nd, not June 3rd 1775, as Miller had it, should be 258, counting back from July 23th, instead of 294, as Miller photographs it in Colliers. The discriminating public is asked to read Mr. Ford's report, and decide what he did as an expert to add to the report of the Charlotte committee that would warrant his assuming so gleefully in The American Historical Review that Sally and he did destroy the Miller paper. The Miller paper was destroyed by the friends of the May Twentieth Declaration on January 1st, 1906.





# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



## Celebration Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.



CHARLOTTE, N. C., MAY 21-26, 1906

Monday

11:00 A. M.—The Third Regiment Band will play until 12:30 o'clock on the Grand Stand at the corner of South Tryon and Second streets.

2:30 P. M.—Balloon ascension at the Fair Grounds.

4:00 P. M.—Exhibition drill by U. S. troops of Infantry, Cavalry and Marines (Regular Army) at the Fair Grounds. Marine Band and Third Regiment Bands will play during the exercises.

7:30 P. M.—Carnival of Lights on main streets.

United Commercial Travelers' Carnival on South Church Street and Battery "A" Carnival at the Fair Grounds. Open from 8 a. m. until midnight.

9:00 P. M.—Reception at Southern Manufacturers' Club to Home Comers and Visitors.

### DON'T FAIL TO VISIT

*The Southern Wareroom of*

***Chas. M. Stieff***

Manufacturer  
of the PIANO with the  
SWEET TONE.

5 West Trade St.

C. H. Wilmoth, Mgr.



# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

\* \* \*

## Celebration Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

\* \* \*

CHARLOTTE, N. C., MAY 21-26, 1906.

### Tuesday

9:30 A. M.—The Third Regiment Band and Keesler Concert Band will play for an hour on the Grand Stand at the corner of South Tryon and Second streets.

11:00 A. M.—Military and Fireman's Street Parade. Regular Army Troops, State Troops, Veterans and City Fire Departments will take part in this parade. Human flag on Grand Stand at the corner of South Tryon and Second streets. Governor R. B. Glenn and his staff will view the parade in full uniform.

12:30 P. M.—Veterans' Drill in front of the Grand Stand at the corner of South Tryon and Second streets.

3:30 P. M.—Balloon Ascension at the Fair Grounds.

4:00 P. M.—Exhibition Drill by Infantry, Cavalry and Marines (Regular Army) at the Fair Grounds. Governor Glenn and his staff will attend. Marine and Third Regiment Bands will play at these exercises.

7:30 P. M.—Carnival of Lights on main streets.

8:30 P. M.—Special concert by Marine Band in Academy of Music (benefit of Marine Band).

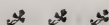
United Commercial Travelers' Carnival on South Church street and Battery "A" Carnival at the Fair Grounds. Open from 8 a. m. until midnight.

Hear with your own ears,  
see with your own eyes the  
wonderful

*Stieff Self-Player*  
*Piano* \* \* \* \* \*



# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



## Celebration Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.



CHARLOTTE, N. C., MAY 21-26, 1906.

### Wednesday

11:00 A. M.---Floral Parade; also Industrial Floats and Decorated Automobiles.

12:30 P. M.---Speech by Hon. Champ. Clark, of Missouri, Subject, "The United States in the Twentieth Century."

4:00 P. M.---Exhibition Drill by Infantry, Cavalry and Marines at the Fair Grounds. Marine and Third Regiment Bands will furnish music.

7:30 P. M.---Carnival of Lights on main streets.

8:00 P. M.---Red Men and Haymaker's Parade with Torches. Red Men dressed as Indians.

9:00 P. M.---Grand Fireworks Display and Night Balloon Ascension in the rear of South Graded School.

United Commercial Travelers' Carnival on South Church street and Battery "A" Carnival at the Fair Grounds. Open from 8:00 A. M. until midnight.

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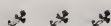
**C. H. WILMOTH, Mgr.**







# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



## Celebration Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.



CHARLOTTE, N. C., MAY 21-26, 1906.

### Thursday

11:00 A. M.---United Commercial Travelers' and Fraternal Orders. Street Parade.

12:00 Noon.---Speech to Fraternal Orders by Hon. E. Y. Webb, at Vance Park.

12:30 P. M.---Grand Horseback Tournament at the Fair Grounds.

2:30 P. M.---Firemen's Exhibition Fire Fighting Drill, opposite the Grand Stand, at the corner of Second and South Tryon streets. Third Regiment Band will participate.

4:00 P. M.---Exhibition Drill by Cavalry.

7:30 P. M.---Carnival of Lights on main streets

United Commercial Travelers' Carnival on South Church street and Battery "A" Carnival at the Fair Grounds. Open from 8 a. m. until midnight.

See the \$2500 Art Grand  
Piano at

Stieff's Southern Wareroom,  
5 West Trade St.

C. H. WILMOTH, - - Mgr.





### *Independence Monument.*

A handsome granite monument, 40 feet high and of obelisk design, stands directly in front of the court house. It is called Independence Monument and was erected "To the Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence." Around the base of the monument are four bronze plates, on one of which is inscribed the names of the Signers. The monument was unveiled May 20th, 1898.

### *"The Kohinoor."*

The Honorable David Bennett Hill, of New York, after scanning all the pages of authentic records, declared that the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was the "Kohinoor of gems in America's crown."

### *The Strongest of Evidence.*

Such historians and jurists as Jones, Martin, Foote, Hawks, Wheeler, Gaston and W. A. Graham have established the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration, not only by indirect testimony, but by the strongest of human evidence: The affidavits of men who were present and participated in the memorable meeting.

### *"The Mecklenburg Censor."*

"When Mecklenburg's fantastic rabble,  
Renowed for censor, scold and gabble,  
In Charlotte met in giddy council,  
To lay the Constitution's ground-sill,  
By choosing men both learned and wise,  
Who clearly could with half-shut eyes,  
See mill-stones through, or spy a plot,  
Whether existed such or not;  
Who always could at noon define  
Whether the sun or moon did shine,  
And by philosophy tell whether  
It was dark or sunny weather;  
And sometimes when their wits were nice,  
Could well distinguish men from mice;  
First to withdraw from British trust,  
In Congress they, the very first,  
Their independence did declare."

[The above is the first of 260 lines of a poem entitled "The Mecklenburg Censor," written by Adam Brevard, a brother to the author of the Declaration, less than two years after the meeting of the general committees in Charlotte. The poet, though ridiculing the delegates, furnished the first documentary proof of the genuineness of the Declaration.]



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The Seaboard Air Line Railway will put on sale June 1st summer excursion tickets to all summer resorts and seashore points, at very low rates.

They will also sell week end tickets to nearly all points, to Wilmington. These tickets will be sold Friday afternoon for 5 p. m. train Saturday and Sunday morning, good to return until Tuesday morning. From Charlotte this ticket will be \$5.00 round trip.

For further information call on or address

C. H. GATTIS,  
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JAMES KER, JR.  
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May 20th



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home pride---the  
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FAIR GROUNDS

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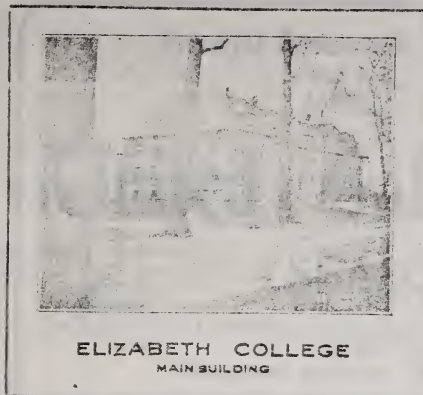
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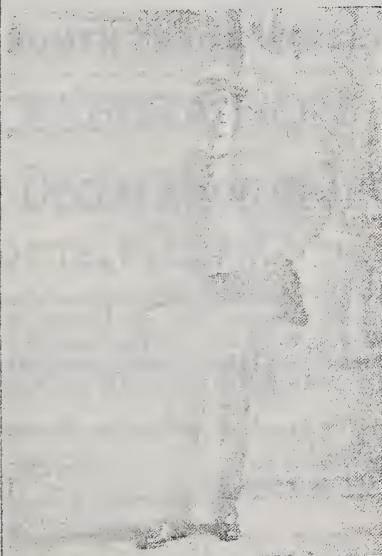
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Sincerely yours,

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The word **BEST** means the **MODEL**.

1692199

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## CELEBRATION

# Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

CHARLOTTE, N. C., MAY 20-24, 1906

On account of the above occasion the Southern Railway will sell round trip tickets to Charlotte at rate of one first-class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. (Minimum rate 50 cents). Tickets will be sold from all points in North Carolina, also from Seneca, S. C., Anderson, Greenwood, Columbia and intermediate points in South Carolina. Dates of sale May 10 to 24 inclusive, with final limit May 26, 1906.

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1st. It helps your credit and standing with modern business men to pay your bills with checks on your bank, and creates a good impression.

2nd. If you pay all your bills with checks the checks must be endorsed by party to whom payable before bank will pay them, and after they are paid by the bank are returned to you and are then legal receipts for every amount paid.

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